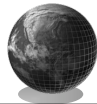


Social Darwinism

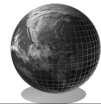
Darwin: Survival of the Fittest

- Darwin's concept that the fittest survive over time
- Misused to mean: weak creatures should not survive
- Pseudoscientific justification for the oppression of minorities



Social Darwinism

- Applying evolutionary theory in a crude way to society
- Not only individuals but societies and cultures naturally compete in survival of the fittest
- It was ok to subjugate those seen as inferior race or culture



Social Darwinism

'The poor ... suffered because they were made of inferior stuff; their struggles were simply the manifestation of ... natural selection, and to interfere was to doom the society, the race, or even the species as a whole.'

— Pat Shipman
The Evolution of Racism (1994), p. 109



Social Darwinism

Was used to defend and support:

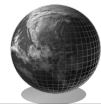
Racism

Elitism

Imperialism

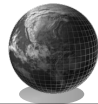
Militarism

Eugenics



Social Darwinism

- Fear of extinction and the urgency of national survival dictate moral conduct.
- The direct use of force is the acceptable norm.



Social Darwinism

“Brave people alone have an existence, and an evolution or future; the weak and cowardly perish, and perish justly. The grandeur of history lies in the perpetual conflict of nations, and it is simply foolish to desire the suppression of conflict.”

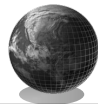
German historian Heinrich Von Treitschke



Social Darwinism

“A few idealists may have visions that with advancing civilization war and its dreaded horrors will cease. Civilization has not changed human nature...armed strike will not disappear from the earth until human nature changes.”

American General J. V. Story



What do you think?

